

VZCZCXRO6368
OO RUEHCI
DE RUEHKA #0063 0120600
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 120600Z JAN 07
FM AMEMBASSY DHAKA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2977
INFO RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1595
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0636
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0275
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 1440
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 9559
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 7720
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 8874
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

UNCLAS DHAKA 000063

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [KDEM](#) [BG](#)

SUBJECT: STATE OF EMERGENCY - SITREP 02 01/12/07

¶1. As of 1240 local the situation remains calm. Embassy personnel are safe and accounted for. No AmCits have contacted Embassy for assistance. A countrywide 2300-0500 hrs daily curfew remains in effect until further notice.

¶2. Former Bangladesh Bank (the country's central bank) Governor Fakhruddin Ahmed will be the new Chief Advisor. The swearing in ceremony is scheduled for 1900 local on January 12 at the President's compound (Bangabhaban.) The Ambassador and other chiefs of mission are invited and will attend.

¶3. Fakruddin was well respected as Governor of the central bank and currently heads a government run micro-finance institution that funds NGOs and other organisations and provides them with institutional development services for poverty alleviation. Fakhruddin held senior positions at the World Bank from 1978 to 2001, when he was appointed Governor. He is a non-controversial figure. Embassy perception of his management of the central bank during his tenure as governor is positive. Nobel Laureate Prof. Md Yunus was reportedly offered the position of Chief Advisor, but declined.

¶4. We have received unsubstantiated reports of arrests and detentions (reports vary from "hundreds" to "thousands"), including two former MPs (one BNP and one AL) with notorious reputations as crime bosses. Based on the information available, these appear justifiable on law enforcement grounds and not politically motivated. Neither party's supporters appear to have been singled out.

BUTENIS